

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-03 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-01 OPIC-02 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01

OMB-01 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-07 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-14

STR-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /072 W
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O R 071540Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7316

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13785

DIA FOR A2 AND D15

PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS

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REF: ROME 13741

SUMMARY. PRESIDENT LEONE WILL NOT COMPLETE HIS SCHEDULED FULL ROUND OF TRADITIONAL CONSULTATIONS UNTIL THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 9. DC AND PSDI PARTY METINGS OCTOBER 7 MAY INDICATE MORE CLEARLY WHAT DIRECTION CRISIS WILL TAKE. MEANWHILE DESPITE A VIRTUAL CONSENSUS THAT NEW ELECTIONS SHOULD BE AVOIDED IF POSSIBLE, THE PARTIES OF THE COALITION ARE NO NEARER TO AGREEMENT THAN THEY WERE BEFORE THE CRISIS BROKE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT LEONE OPENS FORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON GOVERNMENT CRISIS OCTOBER 7 WITH LARGELY RITUALISTIC MEETINGS WITH FORMER PRESIDENTS, FORMER PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS, AND FORMER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. MORE IMPORTANT CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTY DELEGATIONS BEGIN OCTOBER 8 (PCI, DC, PLI, MSI, PSDI) AND END OCTOBER 9 (PSI AND PRI). EVEN PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF CONSULTATIONS, SHAPE OF CRISIS MAY BE CLEARER FOLLOWING DC DIRECTORATE AND PSDI CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS, OCTOBER 7.

2. DC POSITION REMAINS MOST RESERVED AND AMBIGUOUS, FANFANI IS NEAR UNANIMOUS CHOICE OF HIS COLLEAGUES--AS WELL AS OTHER PARTIES OF COALITION--TO ATTEMPT FORM NEW CENTER-LEFT, BUT IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER HE WILL AGREE TO GIVE UP HIS PARTY SECRETARY POST. PSDI EXPECTED APPROVE TANASSI ANALYSIS OF SITUATION WHICH MAKES PSI MAJOR VILLAIN, BUT, UNDER PRESSURE FROM ITS LEFT WING, WILL PROBABLY NOT FORECLOSE SOLUTIONS SHORT OF NEW ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, CONDITIONS DEMANDED FOR NEW CENTER-LEFT MAY AMOUNT TO REJECTION.

3. MEANWHILE, WHILE DECLARING THEIR PREFERENCE FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER-LEFT, AUTHORITATIVE PSI SPOKESMEN HAVE REASSERTED THEIR DEMANDS FOR QUOTE PROFOUND CHANGES UNQUOTE IN ECONOMIC POLICY AND MAKING PCI QUOTE CO-RESPONSIBLE UNQUOTE FOR SOLUTIONS TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, PRESUMABLY THROUGH FORMAL CONSULTATION. PCI INCLUSION IN GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, EXPLICITLY EXCLUDED. PCI ITSELF IS MOUNTING CAMPAIGN TO AVOID NEW ELECTIONS. COMMENT: DESPITE A BROAD CONSENSUS THAT NEW ELCTIONS SHOULD BE AVOIDED IF POSSIBLE (ONLY THE PLI AND MSI UNCONDITIONALLY CALL FOR THEM), THE OBJECTIVE DIFFERENCES
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BETWEEN THE COALITION PARTIES WHICH MAKE AGREEMENT DIFFICULT REMAIN. LEONE'S LACK OF HASTE IN INITIATING OR COMPLETING HIS CONSULTATIONS--IN CONTRAST TO HIS SHORT CUTS OF LAST JUNE WHEN RUMOR WAS TOLD TO TRY AGAIN--CONFIRM THAT NO EASY SOLUTION IS EXPECTED. IF EXPECTED EFFORTS TO PUT HUMPTY-DUMPTY BACK TOGETHER AGAIN FAIL, A TRANSITORY COALITION EXCLUDING THE PSI OR A DC MONOCOLOR TO PREPARE NEW ELECTIONS IN THE SPRING, REMAIN POSSIBLE FALL BACK POSITIONS

TO AVOID WINTER ELECTIONS. BEAUDRY

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